

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An air conditioner comprising an outdoor unit and an indoor unit provided with an indoor heat exchanger and an indoor expansion device, wherein the outdoor unit comprises:
 - a compressor that compresses a refrigerant;
 - an outdoor heat exchanger that exchanges heat with the refrigerant;
 - a four-way valve, positioned adjacent to the compressor, that circulates the refrigerant discharged from the compressor according to one of a heating cycle and a cooling cycle;
 - a refrigerant detouring path that detours the refrigerant discharged from the outdoor heat exchanger to the compressor during a defrosting operation; and
 - a heat exchanging unit, positioned along the detouring path, that heats the refrigerant.
2. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 1, further comprising an outdoor expansion device that reduces a pressure of the refrigerant and is positioned along the detouring path.

3. (Currently Amended) The air conditioner of claim 2, wherein the outdoor expansion device is an ~~electron~~ electronic expansion valve.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 1, wherein the heat exchanging unit comprises a heat conducting coil which winds around the refrigerant detouring path.

6. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 1, wherein the refrigerant detouring path extends between a first refrigerant path, that connects the outdoor heat exchanger and the indoor unit by a first three-way valve, and a second refrigerant path, that connects the four-way valve and the indoor unit by a second three-way valve.

7. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 6, further comprising a receiver that temporarily receives the refrigerant passing through the first refrigerant path; and
a drier positioned between the first refrigerant path and the first three-way valve, the drier being configured to remove moisture from the refrigerant.

8. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 1, wherein the outdoor unit comprises a plurality of outdoor units arranged in parallel.

9. (Previously Presented) An outdoor unit for an air conditioner, said outdoor unit comprising:

a compressor;

an outdoor heat exchanger that exchanges heat between a refrigerant and external air;

a four-way valve positioned adjacent to the compressor, that changes a flow-path of the refrigerant and circulates the refrigerant according to one of a heating cycle and a cooling cycle;

a first refrigerant path that connects the outdoor heat exchanger to an indoor unit;

a second refrigerant path that connects the four-way valve to the indoor unit;

a refrigerant detouring path connected to the first refrigerant path by a first three-way valve and connected to the second refrigerant path by a second three-way valve, that detours the refrigerant during a defrosting cycle;

an outdoor expansion device positioned along the refrigerant detouring path, that lowers a pressure of the refrigerant in the refrigerant detouring path; and

a heat exchanging unit installed between the outdoor expansion device and the second three-way valve, that exchanges heat with the refrigerant which has passed through the outdoor expansion device.

10. (Previously Presented) The outdoor unit for an air conditioner of claim 9, wherein the heat exchanging unit comprises a heat conducting coil which winds around the refrigerant detouring path.

11. (Previously Presented) The outdoor unit for an air conditioner of claim 9, further comprising an accumulator between an outlet of the four-way valve and an inlet of the compressor, that filters a liquefied form of the refrigerant.

12. (Previously Presented) An air conditioner comprising an outdoor unit and an indoor unit provided with an indoor heat exchanger and an indoor expansion device, said outdoor unit comprising:

a compressor that compresses a refrigerant;

an outdoor heat exchanger that exchanges heat with the refrigerant;

a four-way valve positioned adjacent to the compressor, that circulates the refrigerant discharged from the compressor according to one of a heating cycle and a cooling cycle; and

a refrigerant detouring path that extends between a first refrigerant path, that connects the outdoor heat exchanger and the indoor unit by a first three-way

valve, and a second refrigerant path, that connects the four-way valve and the indoor unit by a second three-way valve.

13. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 12, wherein an outdoor expansion device, positioned along the detouring path, reduces a pressure of the refrigerant.

14. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 13, wherein a heat exchanging unit that heats the refrigerant is positioned along the detouring path.

15. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 14, wherein the heat exchanging unit comprises a heat conducting coil which winds around the refrigerant detouring path.

16. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 12, further comprising a receiver that temporarily receives the refrigerant passing through the first refrigerant path; and

a drier positioned between the first refrigerant path and the first three-way valve, that removes moisture from the refrigerant.

17. (Previously Presented) The air conditioner of claim 12, wherein the outdoor unit comprises a plurality of outdoor units arranged in parallel.